

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03305 230304 Z

10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

SAL-01 SS-14 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12

ACDA-19 GAC-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /143 W

----- 128376

R 221740 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3329

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MASS PFOR IN PK IR

SUBJECT: ARMS AND AID: SHIFT IN EMPHASIS AND FOCUS

REF: NEW DELHI 3226 (NOTAL) AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING CHAVAN STATEMENT ACCEPTING NOW-RELEASED AID (REFTEL), EMPHASIS IN PRESS AND AMONG OBSERVERS HAS SHIFTED FROM ARMS TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. CONSENSUS OF OBSERVERS IS THAT GOI DESIRES FOCUS NOT ON ARMS BUT ON BROADER, MORE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF INDO- US RELATIONS. DELAYED BUT HEAVY COVERAGE OF US- IRAN ARMS SALE APPEARING IN LOCAL PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. LEFTIST PRESS STILL DISCREDITING US ON ARMS DECISION. PRO-MOSCOW PATRIOT, IN MARCH 22 DISPATCH FROM DACCA, ALLEGED QTE FROM RULING AWAMI LEAGUE ... TO BHASHANI NAP, ALL HAVE CONDEMNED AMERICAN POLICY OF REARMING PAKISTAN UNQTE
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 03305 230304 Z

AS THREAT TO PEACE. WEEKLY SOCIALIST INDIA (CONGRESS HOUSE ORGAN), IN FIRST REACTION TO ARMS DECISION, CALLED IT QTE FOOLISH AND PROVOCATIVE UNQTE, SAW TIMING AS QTE PERVERSE UNQTE, AND CONCLUDED US STILL SEEKS QTE DOMINANCE, IF NOT HEGEMONY UNQTE IN SUB- CONTINENT. SOCIALIST INIA, WHICH RUN BY PRO-MOSCOW CONGRESSMAN, ADDED THAT SISCO STATEMENT THAT ARMS WOULD NOT UPSET AREA MILITARY BALANCE QTE BORDERS ON INSOLENT MANDACITY UNQTE. (WRITING QTE PURELY FROM MILITARY VIEWPOINT UNQTE, IN CONTRAST, INDIAN EXPRESS DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT GEN. CHAUDHURI DISCOUNTED VALUE OF PERSONNEL CARRIERS, SAID QTE DAMAGE DONE WILL BE MORE PSYCHOLOGICAL THAN PHYSICAL UNQTE.) DESPITE LEFTISTS' EXAGGERATIONS, EMBASSY MAIL FLOW ON ARMS DECISION IS RELATIVE TRICKLE AND DEMONSTRATIONS ALMOST NIL TO DATE.

2. US OFFER RELEASE AID AND CHAVAN ACCEPTANCE DREW MIXED BUT GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE. EXCEPTIONAL WAS JANA SANGH (RIGHTIST) MOTHERLAND EDITORIAL MARCH 22 (QTE KISS- CUM- SIAP UNQTE), WHICH ARGUED US ACTED ONLY QTE TO MOLIFY STRONG FEELINGS AROUSED HERE UNQTE BY ARMS DECISION, CITED CHINA AS COUNTRY WHICH RESPECTED ABROAD BECAUSE IT SPURNS AID. WRITING BEFORE CHAVAN SPOKE, INFLUENTIAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEEKLY SAID US DECISIONS INDICATE US RETURNING TO QTE OPEN, ACTIVE ROLE UNQTE FIRST IN BANGLADESH, NOW IN INDIA/ PAKISTAN, AND OBSERVED THAT QTE IF BHUTTO' S NEED FOR MILITARY SUPPLIES FROM US IS ACUTE, SO IS GOI' S NEED FOR US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE UNQTE. IN LEAD EDITORIAL MARCH 22, HINDUSTAN TIMES COMMENDED CHAVAN FOR SEPARATING ARMS AND AID, DESCRIBED US AID DECISION AS QTE TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP AND MOVE BACK TOWARDS NORMAL RELATIONS UNQTE, BUT WARNED THAT NEITHER COUNTRY SHOULD SEEK RESTORE 1960' S RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IT SAW AS QTE PARTLY IDEALIZED, PARTLY DISTORTED, AND NOT ALWAYS APPROXIMATE TO REALITY OF INDIAN AND AMERICAN INTERESTS UNQTE. DURING COMING WASHINGTON TRIP, CHAVAN URGED TO PLACE NEW REALISTIC ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP QTE BEYOND MISUNDERSTANDING UNQTE.

3. GOI SILENCE ON ARMS SINCE SWARAN SINGH STATEMENT, AND CHAVAN' S ANNOUNCEMENT, HAVE LED MOST OBSERVERS HERE TO CONCLUDE GOI PERSEVERING IN DESIRE FOR BETTER INDO- US RELATIONS. WESTERN DIPLOMATS HAVE ASSESSED GOI REACTION ON RMS AS QTE PRO FORMA UNQTE, QTE MUTED UNQTE; MAY HAVE COMMENTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 03305 230304 Z

PRIVATELY ON APPARENT CORDIALITY OF PRIMIN TOWARD AMBASSADOR.

THEY ALSO PROBING FOR INDICATIONS OF DIMENSIONS OF FUTURE US
BILATERAL AID.

4. TENTATIVE CONFIRMATION GOI SEEKS EMPHASIZE BROADER,
POSITIVE ASPECTS INDO- US RAGATIONS ALSO FOUND IN LONG ANALYSIS
BY STATESMAN' S N. J. NANPORLA, WHO DESCRIBED GOI RESPONSE TO
ARMS DECISION AS QTE RELATIVELY WELL- CONTROLLED
UNQTE. HE RE
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